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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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East Germans May Revise Width of Frontier Zone

The five-kilometer wide frontier zone that the GDR has maintained on it's side of the border with the Federal Republic may be changed in the near future. A decree published in the GDR official gazette says that "according to requirements and taking into account local conditions, a safety strip and closed zone or respectively a border zone will be established in the frontier regions."

Details on specific changes have not yet been announced.

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Meanwhile, a West Berlin press agency claims that the border zone will be reduced to 500 meters.

If the zone is drastically narrowed, it would suggest that Pankow is no longer willing to pay the high price for its security that it has paid in the past. In addition, some observers consider that the East German leadership may no longer fear that a large segment of its population will flee to the West.

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